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Letters from the “Gentlemen of the Press,” 1810-1845

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Letters from the “Gentlemen of the Press,” 1810-1845

David E. Latané

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In *John Wilson Croker: Irish Ideas and the Invention of Modern Conservatism, 1800-1835*, Robert Portsmouth analyzes the way in which the newspaper press was manipulated via interlocking circles of journalists and politicians during the era of Reform. In addition to Croker, one of the important figures in the Tory press was his fellow Irishman William Maginn, and it was in the course of researching and writing *William Maginn and the British Press: A Critical Biography* (Ashgate, 2013) that I began collecting letters to and from members of the press.

The letters presented here help reveal the shape of relationships that prevailed on Fleet Street at the cusp of the Victorian era. A quick note dashed off by legendary *Times* editor Thomas Barnes, for instance, to John Wilson Croker shows how careful Barnes was, even as his paper was supporting the Whigs, to avoid offense to a powerful Tory politician and *Quarterly* reviewer. Another note from Joseph Gibbons Merle, editor of the *Courier*, reaches out to Charles Molloy Westmacott, the controversial editor and owner of *The Age*, in friendly protest over some sniping against his paper.

Other letters connect directly with particular published items. Thomas Hill was one of those featured in the *Fraser's Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters*, in which each lithographed portrait had the subject's signature. From a note, we discover that Theodore Hook accidentally destroyed the signature for Hill, and Hill had to write James Fraser with a replacement. A letter from the little-known Louisa Sheridan offering a review of a novel by Lady Stepney to a woman magazine editor—with a little in joke about the historian Agnes Strickland—shows how female press circles operated as well.

My transcriptions almost certainly contain some errors. In "Note-Book of a Literary Idler. No. II" (Blackwood's, August, 1825) William Maginn pointed out the errors in the first article in the series caused by his sloppy penmanship--the compositor had read "heart" for instance instead of "fact." Maginn observes, "that calligraphy, or at all events legibility of writing, is a qualification not at all to be despised" (p. 236). The scans of the letters show a great variety of legibility. Corrections and suggestions are welcome; please email me at dlatane@vcu.edu

Throughout I have relied on the online *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB), the *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism* (DNCJ), and the *Waterloo Directory of English, Irish and Scottish Newspapers and Periodicals, 1800-1900* (Waterloo). My thanks to the editors of these important resources.

Correspondents (* indicates there is an entry in the *ODNB*)

Charles Baldwin* (1774-1865). Baldwin's father Henry was a printer who launched the thrice-weekly *St. James Chronicle* in 1761. Charles started out as a compositor, but became a partner by 1801. With a new editor, Stanley Lees Giffard, he made the paper a staunchly Tory opponent of Catholic emancipation, Parliamentary reform, and repeal of the corn laws. In 1827 Baldwin launched a new evening daily, *The Standard*, edited by Giffard and William Maginn. *Author of letter to Edward Baldwin, his son.*

Edward Baldwin* (1803-1890). Baldwin was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, where he took an M. A. in 1827. When his father retired in 1844 he took over the family business, and soon after purchased the *Morning Herald*, which he pushed forward in an attempt to rival *The Times*. For few years he flourished, partly through profitable advertisements for railroad schemes, but in 1857 he filed for bankruptcy, and the Baldwin family interests in newspapers ceased. *Recipient of letter from Charles Baldwin, his father.*

Thomas Barnes* (1785-1841). The son of a solicitor, after a distinguished career at Cambridge, Barnes became a member of Leigh Hunt's circle, wrote for the Hunts' Examiner, and led a life of dissipation in London while studying at the bar. His friend Barron Field introduced him to John Walter, publisher of *The Times*, where he initially worked as a parliamentary reporter Walter recognized Barnes's potential, and made him editor in 1817. Barnes made the *Times* the preeminent power in journalism. *Author of letter to John Wilson Croker.*

William Blackwood* (1776-1834). Blackwood apprenticed as a bookseller in Edinburgh and London, and in 1810 began to move into publishing. In 1817 he founded *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, one of the most important monthlies in British history; the success of "Maga" helped fund his expansion into book publishing. *Author of letter to Thomas Hill.*

Alexander (1806-1845) and Robert Blackwood (1808-1852). Two of the sons in "William Blackwood and Sons," they were responsible for transitioning the publishing firm and *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* into the Victorian period. *Recipient of letter from David Macbeth Moir.*

James Silk Buckingham* (1786-1855). Buckingham founded the *Calcutta Journal* in 1818, *Oriental Herald and Colonial Review* (1824-9), *The Sphynx* (1827-9), and the weekly *The Athenaeum* in 1828, which he sold his interest in after a few weeks—it became the most influential weekly review of the Victorian era. His other periodical work included a short-lived evening paper, *The Argus* (1830). He was elected in Sheffield to the reformed parliament in 1832. In 1837 he undertook an extensive lecture tour of North America, drawing on his reputation as a traveller and writer. *Author of letter to Benjamin Silliman.*

Mary Cockburn (née Duff) (1788-1858). Cockburn was a close friend of Mitford's, but remembered chiefly as Lord Byron's childhood sweetheart. *Recipient of letter from Mary Russell Mitford.*

John Wilson Croker* (1780-1857). Born in Galway, Croker was Secretary of the Admiralty, a key contributor to the *Quarterly Review*, a long term member of Parliament, and a historian and editor of some note. Croker was often marshalled the press on behalf of the

Tory government, including the Sunday *John Bull* which was edited by his friend Theodore Hook. *Recipient of letter from Thomas Barnes.*

Thomas Crofton Croker* (1798-1854). Croker was a native of Cork, but came to London to work as a clerk in the Admiralty, where he was instrumental in introducing lithography. His literary work was mainly in folklore and antiquarian subjects, and he contributed to the *Gentleman's Magazine* and *Fraser's*. He was intimate with Maginn, Maclise, S. C. Hall and other London based Irish writers and artists, as well as the poet Letitia Landon ("L. E. L."). *Author of letter to "Sir"; recipient of letter from William Maginn.*

Eyre Evans Crowe* (1799-1868). Born in Southampton, Crowe attended Trinity College, Dublin, but took to journalism in London before graduation. He wrote for *Blackwood's* and other magazines in the 1820s, and for the *Examiner* in the 1830s. He also wrote histories and novels. *Author of letter to Rev. Moore.*

John Thadeus Delane* (1817-1879). Delane was the son of a barrister who was the treasurer of *The Times* newspaper. Upon his graduation from Oxford in 1840, he was immediately employed by the paper, and when Thomas Barnes died unexpectedly the following year he was made editor at age of 24, and remained in the position until his death. Like Barnes he exercised power from behind the scenes. *Author of letter to John Gibson Lockhart.*

James Fraser* (1805?-1841). Fraser hailed from Inverness, moved to London, and established a printing business at 215 Regent Street. In 1830 he launched *Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country*, instigated by William Maginn, Hugh Fraser, and William Fraser (neither a relation). Like William Blackwood and *Blackwood's Magazine*, he exerted greater than usual control and in effect often functioned as editor. *Recipient of letter from Thomas Hill.*

Stanley Lees Giffard* (1799-1858). Born in Dublin, Giffard came from a political and newspaper family noted for their anti-Catholicism. He took a BA and LLD, from Trinity College, Dublin, then went to London and was called to the Bar. Without clients, he began writing for Baldwin's *St. James Chronicle*, and became its editor in 1819. In 1827, when Baldwin founded the daily evening paper *The Standard*, he became editor, and remained with the paper until shortly before his death. *Author of letter to Mr. Venables.*

Samuel Carter Hall* (1800-1889). Another man originally from Cork, Ireland, Hall was a fixture in the London literary scene for almost seventy years. He worked early in his career as a sub-editor for a number of Tory newspapers, and founded the annual giftbook *The Amulet* in 1826. He worked as a sub-editor for the *New Monthly Magazine* during Bulwer's editorship, and in the 1840s was instrumental in founding the *Art Journal*. A teetotaler and a prig, he is supposedly the original of the character of Pecksniff in *Martin Chuzzlewit*. *Recipient of letter from Amelia Smith.*

John Abraham Heraud* (1799-1887). Heraud was a disciple of Coleridge, and was a contributor and probably worked as a sub-editor for *Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country*. He wrote pre-Spasmodic religious epics (e.g., *The Descent into Hell*, 1830) and ended up as theatre critic for *The Athenæum* and the *Illustrated London News*. *Author of letter to John Gibson Lockhart.*

J. T. J. Hewlitt* (1800-1847). A clergyman, Hewlitt was a Londoner, educated at Charterhouse and then Oxford. He married for love and struggled with poverty as a

curate in Berkshire, before being appointed to the living at Little Stambridge in Essex. He wrote a number of novels, including several, such *Peter Priggins*, *the College Scout* of 1841, that may be considered precursors of the campus novel. *Recipient of two letters from Charles Molloy Westmacott.*

Thomas Hill* (1760-1840). Hill was the proprietor of the *Monthly Mirror*, a noted book collector and man-about-town, perhaps best known for his being rumored to be the original of “Paul Pry,” the eponymous hero of John Poole’s comedy of 1825. Leigh Hunt remembered him thusly in *Lord Byron and Some of His Contemporaries* in 1828: “I forget how I became acquainted with Mr. Hill, proprietor of the *Monthly Mirror*; but at his house at Sydenham I used to meet his editor Mr. Dubois; Mr. Campbell, who was his neighbor; and the two Smiths, authors of “The Rejected Addresses.” Once or twice I saw also Mr. Theodore Hook, and Mr. Mathews the comedian. Our host (and I thought him no older the other day than he was then) was a jovial bachelor, plump and rosy as an abbot; and no abbot could have presided over a more festive Sunday” (2: 1). *Author of letter to James Fraser.*

William Jerdan* (1782-1869). Jerdan was one of the most influential journalists of his day, through his long term as editor of the *Literary Gazette*, beginning in 1818. His four-volume *Autobiography* (1852-53) is a valuable source for information about periodicals in the early nineteenth century. He was a clubbable man, active in learned societies and the Royal Literary Fund. Jerdan was the father of three children with Letitia Landon. *Recipient of letter from Daniel Maclise.*

Robert Walker Jones. Thomas Crosbie, in *Theme: Dr. Maginn, with a Few Variations* (Dublin: Eason & Son, 1895), identifies Jones as a music professor for Maginn’s daughters. *Recipient of letter from William Maginn.*

Edward Vaughan Hyde Kenealy* (1819-1880). Kenealy was born in Cork and came from a middle-class Catholic background. When he came to London to prepare for a law career he befriended one of his boyhood idols, William Maginn, and after Maginn’s death in 1842 he wrote the first substantial biography for *Dublin University Magazine* (Jan. 1844). He is most famous as the legal representative of the “Tichbourne Claimant” in 1873. *Recipient of two letters from William Maginn.*

Charles Knight* (1791-1873). Knight was the son of a bookseller in Windsor, and worked as a journalist. His Eton connection led to his publishing *The Etonian* magazine in 1820, followed by *Knight’s Quarterly Magazine* (1823). Both relied on contributions from a set of friends who met at Eton College (W. M. Praed, John Moultrie, and T. B. Macaulay). He worked for a while for John Silk Buckingham’s *The Sphinx*, and then became the publisher for the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge’s *Penny Magazine*. In later years he wrote popular works, chiefly historical. *Recipient of letter from Barry St. Leger.*

Walter Lane. Lane was an Irishman, and the editor of *The English Gentleman* weekly paper (1824-1827). *Author of letter to Edward Dixon Pouchée.*

Letitia Elizabeth Landon* (1802-1838). Landon was a poetic prodigy who was also the secret lover of her neighbor and editor of the *Literary Gazette*, William Jerdan. She worked as an unpaid sub-editor of the *Gazette*, and as a single woman was unusually well-connected

with literary men and women. Her poems, signed “L. E. L.,” made her the most prominent new poet of the 1820s. In the 1830s, her work shifted to giftbook editing (*Fisher’s Drawing Room Scrap-Book*) and the writing of fiction. She broke off an engagement to John Forster, later married George Maclean, and died in mysterious circumstances at Cape Coast Castle in Africa, where Maclean was governor. *Author of letter to “Dear Sir.”*

John Gibson Lockhart* (1794-1854). One of the originators of *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* in 1817, Lockhart married Sir Walter Scott’s daughter and later moved to London to edit the *Quarterly Review*. In addition to his widely-admired life of Scott, he published several quite good novels, and an anonymous and astute early book on Byron’s *Don Juan*. *Author of letter to Anne Morritt; recipient of letters from James Heraud and John Delane.*

Daniel Maclise, R.A.* (1806-1870). Another Corkonian, Maclise arrived in London to enroll in the Royal Academy schools in 1827. Shortly after the launch of *Fraser’s Magazine* in 1830, he began collaborating with William Maginn on the “Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters.” He was pals with novelists such as Ainsworth and Dickens, and he became a full member of the Royal Academy in 1840. *Author of letter to William Jerdan.*

William Maginn* (1794-1842). Maginn was the son of a schoolmaster in Cork, and something of a prodigy at Trinity College, Dublin. He wrote for *Blackwood’s* and Jerdan’s *Literary Gazette* while still in Ireland, and moved to London in 1824 to make a career in newspapers. He is best known as the founder of *Fraser’s Magazine*, in which he pioneered a form of celebrity journalism in the “Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters,” with illustrations by his fellow Corkonian Daniel Maclise. *Author of four letters to Charles Molloy Westmacott, one letter to Thomas Crofton Croker, one letter to R. Jones, two letters to Edward Kenealy.*

Merle, Joseph Gibbons (1796-1855). Son of a French émigré during the Revolution, Merle became a veteran reporter and editor for many newspapers (*White Dwarf*, *Courier*, *Globe and Traveller*, *Galvani’s Messenger*, et al.), Merle turned his experience in living cheaply at home and abroad into the *Domestic Dictionary and Housekeeper’s Manual* (1842). He published a series in *Fraser’s Magazine* in 1841: “A Newspaper Editor’s Reminiscences” which is also an important source for the life of Shelley, with whom Merle was acquainted in 1810-11. *Author of letter to Charles Molloy Westmacott.*

Mary Russell Mitford* (1787-1855). Mitford began her literary career writing for the theatre, writing with the intent of earning money to support her parents. She was saddled with an improvident and later invalid father, who had run through her mother’s large fortune and who ended up in debtor’s prison in 1811. Her best known and much loved *Our Village: Sketches of Rural Character and Scenery* began appearing in 1824 in the *New Monthly Magazine*. She was close friends with Elizabeth Barrett Browning. *Author of letter to Mary Cockburn.*

David Macbeth Moir. Moir, a medical doctor practicing near Edinburgh, was from the early days a stalwart of *Blackwood’s Magazine*. Like Maginn, he submitted and published initially without revealing to William Blackwood his identity. His work was signed Δ,

and consequently he was known as the “Delta of *Blackwood’s Magazine*.” *Author of letter to Alexander or Robert Blackwood.*

The Rev. Moore. Not yet identified. *Recipient of letter from Eyre Evans Crowe.*

Anne Morritt (1773 c.-1848). The unmarried sister of Sir Walter Scott’s close friend John Bacon Sawrey Morritt of Rokeby, she was considered an agreeable visitor and family friend by Scott as well the Lockharts. *Recipient of letter from John Gibson Lockhart.*

Charles Molloy Westmacott* (1787-1868). “Scurrilous” was a descriptive term used frequently by Westmacott’s many enemies, and he sometimes earned it through his combative and sometimes libelous editing of *The Age*. The extent to which he engaged in extortion based on his large trove of backstairs information about the aristocracy is difficult to determine, but he made enough money to retire from the business and write genteel papers for the *New Sporting Magazine* in the 1840s. *Author of two letters to Hewlitt; recipient of four letters from William Maginn and one from Gibbons Merle.*

Edward Dixon Pouchée (?- 1859). In the 1820s, publisher of the weekly *English Gentleman* and *News of Literature and Fashion*, and the monthly *European Magazine*. In 1827 he also held a position in the Stage Coach Office in Somerset House. *Recipient of letter from Walter Lane.*

Francis Barry Boyle St. Leger* (1799-1829). Born in Ireland, St. Leger was a connected to the family of the Viscount Doneraile, and educated at Rugby School. After a brief stint with the East India Company, he edited periodicals (*The Album*, 1822-1825, and *Brazen Head*, 1826), and published two novels before his early death. *Author of letter to Charles Knight.*

Louisa Henrietta Sheridan (d. 1842). Sheridan edited, and wrote much of the text for, *The Comic Offering; or Ladies Melange of Literary Mirth*, an annual giftbook (1830-1835), that she also illustrated with comic drawings. In 1838, she edited an annual titled *The Diadem*. *Author of letter to “Madam.”*

Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864). One of the first professors of science at an American university, Silliman College at Yale is named after him. He founded and edited the *American Journal of Science* (1818). *Recipient of letter from James Silk Buckingham.*

Amelia Keith Gillespie Smyth (c1788-1876). Smyth was the daughter of Sir Robert Murray Keith, a diplomat, and was born in Vienna, and she married Robert Gillespie Smyth in 1808. Blackwood published her *Tales of the Moors* in 1828, and correspondence in the Blackwoods’ archive at the National Library of Scotland shows that, while keeping her name incognito, she was keen on promoting her books to other authors (such as Scott, Hemans, Caroline Bowles Southey. She published in *Fraser’s* in 1832 as “Selwyn.” *Author of letter to Samuel Carter Hall.*

Mr. Venables. Not yet identified. *Recipient of letter from Stanley Lees Giffard*

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Charles Baldwin to Edward Baldwin
Date: 4 December 1814
Place: London

[in a different hand in blue ink]

Written by Ch. B. of [07?]

oil painting

New Bridge Street¹
Dec.^{br} 4th. 1814.

My dear Edward,

I received your letters announcing when the Holidays were to begin, but it was not necessary to have written the second so soon, because you are not to expect that your letters are to be immediately answered; and when they are not answered you must wait patiently, and believe that I am too busy or have some reason for not attending to them. I perceive some evil from permitting you to write home without superintendence. In the first place you do not take so

[page break]

much pains with your writing, and in the next you pay too little attention to the mode of expressing yourself. I do not say this, my dear boy, as being angry, or meaning to chide you, but as wishing you to acquire a proper style for epistolary correspondence. In order to this you must always consider to whom you are addressing yourself. The

¹ Baldwin writes from his London office (38 New Bridge Street, just North of the Blackfriars Bridge) to his eldest son Edward, age eleven, who was boarding at the private school of The Rev. Thomas Waite, in Greenwich. The following year Waite moved to be Master of Colfe's Grammar School in nearby Lewisham, taking his private pupils with him. Baldwin was printer and owner of the *Saint James Chronicle, and Evening Post*. The paper had been founded by Henry Baldwin (1734-1813) and others in 1761, and it appeared thrice weekly, price six-pence halfpenny in 1814. *ODNB*.

expressions which might be very appropriate in writing to a schoolfellow or companion might be much too free in corresponding with your parents. Every token of respect is fully their due, and you must accustom yourself on all occasions both in speech & writing, and manner to shew it them. I am sure you did not mean to be wanting in it, and therefore the part of your letter which I am going to quote

[page break]

is only pointed out for your instruction. You say “I should only like to go home in that coach as one of my schoolfellows will be going at the same time and has promised to walk with me, and I like him very much. I should like you to write to me soon & at the same time to put into the letter, &c. as I like, &c.” You may observe how often you use the words I should like. Such a repetition would be improper if only for the frequency, but the phrase is vulgar in itself, & not a proper one to use to your father— You should like me to write to you, & you should like me to send you some money. Suppose you had said something like the following:—“Will you be so kind as to write to me as soon as you conveniently can, and if you would indulge me by enclosing a little money it would be particularly acceptable at present.” Your request would then have been more modest, and more resembling a solicitation. I am far from desiring to lessen the pleasure you take in writing to myself, your Mother and Sisters, and think the liberty of writing freely may be of service to you if properly used; But do not be so anxious to write often, as to write well. Take pains with your hand, and consider always to whom you are writing: to your parents use the language of respect and veneration, mingled with

[page break]

affectionate confidence & the freedom which the certainty of a kind interpretation will insure. To your Sisters you may write as upon an equality, but do not correspond with them tooo frequently, and be sure never to use

to them either words or sentiments but of the purest description. I fear that some part of this letter may be *[scratched out]* almost above your present under=standing. Keep it by you – you may read it with advantage at a future period.

As to your coming or find some other coach you mention With regard to the a 3 ^s piece, but think you have spent what you last took very fast. ² Your Mama sends her kind love, & with me desires her Comps. to D ^r . & Mrs Waite. ³ Your sister Emma comes home on the 16 th . Sophia has not yet written. Your ever affect ^e Father Charles Baldwin	Mastr. Baldwin	home provided I do not call for you myself, mode of conveyance, I have no objection to the – I will write again on the subject in due time. money – having some of yours in hand, I enclose
--	----------------	--

² This warning may have been prophetic; Edward went bankrupt, involving his father and the family newspapers in a suit in Chancery that was settled on appeal in 1859.

³ The Rev. Thomas Waite, LL.D. (1775-1842) took his degrees from Queen's College, Cambridge, was master of Colfe's Grammar School (1815-1833), and reformed it to fit more closely to the intentions of the philanthropist Abraham Colfe, after whom the Lewisham Grammar was renamed in 1652. He also served as Chaplain to the Duke of Gloucester, Princess Sophia Matilda, and other members of the Royal Family. He published *Discourses on the Thirty-Nine Articles* in 1826, and was praised in his obituary in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for his "kind and gentle manners" that improved the understanding of his pupils "by winning a perfect hold on the best feelings of the heart" ("The Rev. Thomas Waite, LL.D." *Gentleman's Magazine* 18 n.s. [Dec. 1842]: 657).

Thomas Barnes to John Wilson Croker
Date: 22 December 1830
Place: London

[*sepia, different hand*]

ans^d

23 Dec^r

[*Barnes's hand*]

The Times Office
Dec. 22, 1830

Dear Sir,

I was much
more vexed than you
are likely to be at
an impertinent allusion
to your name in
the Paris letter which
appeared in the
Times this morning.⁴
The fact is our Correspondent
had by marks in
the margin of his
letter directed my

[*page break*]

attention solely to
the passages descriptive
of the state of Paris,
& owing to the late
hour & the necessity of
looking over nearly
twenty French Papers
forwarded by the

⁴ "Express from Paris," *Times* (22 December 1830): 4. The offending passage reads "Peyronnet was, in his prosperity, an overbearing man: there is, however, not a silent resignation and self-possession about him which is interesting. His intonation of voice when he wants to create an impression is as solemn—almost as dignified—as the late Sit Samuel Romilly's; but, in the by-play of conversation with those around him, he becomes as garrulous and restively impatient as your ex-Admiralty Secretary, Croker."

same express, I did
not look at any
passage which had
not been specially
pointed out.⁵ The matter

[page break]

is no doubt of not the
slightest importance to
you, but I cannot
endure to be under
the suspicion of being
wanting in courtesy to
a gentleman whose handsome
conduct towards me
I shall always remember
with the most grateful
regard.

I am, dear Sir,
your faithful &
obliged Sert

T Barnes

Rt. Hon.^{bl}
J. Wilson Croker⁶

⁵ It is of note that in his eleventh year as editor of *The Times* Barnes is still engaged in the relatively mundane task of excerpting foreign paper content.

⁶ John Wilson Croker (1780-1857), Tory politician and behind the scenes manipulator of the press for the party, was born in Ireland and was long time Secretary of the Admiralty. He is remembered as well for his attack on John Keats in the *Quarterly Review* (April, 1818). In 1830 he was M.P. for Dublin University, and a staunch opponent of Reform. *ODNB*.

William Blackwood to Thomas Hill

Date: 22 February 1833

Place: Edinburgh

Edin 22 Feb. 1833

Mr Dear Sir

It is so very many
years since you and I trafficked
in the literary amenities[?] of the
elder time, that it gives me very
great pleasure to renew our
intercourse in this new field.
Along with Maga⁸ I beg to send
you The Quarterly Journal of Agri-
culture, a work where I am
very desirous of being made better
known in England.

I am

My Dear Sir

Your [illegible]

W. Blackwood

[in pencil in another hand] "Old Ebony"⁹

Thos Hill Esq

⁷ Before becoming a publisher and magazine proprietor, Blackwood had been a rare book dealer. The *ODNB* notes "He completed his apprenticeship in 1796, and subsequently undertook further training in other areas of the publishing trade, superintending the Glasgow branch of the Edinburgh publishers Mundell & Co. for a year, serving as a partner with the antiquarian bookseller and auctioneer Robert Ross for another, and working for two years in London in the antiquarian department of the booksellers Cuthill. In 1804 Blackwood opened a shop at 64 South Bridge, Edinburgh, specializing in acquiring and selling rare books." Thomas Hill was a notable rare book collector (*ODNB*).

⁸ *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*.

⁹ In the early volumes of *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* writers such as John Gibson Lockhart and John Wilson nicknamed the publisher "Ebony."

James Silk Buckingham to Professor Benjamin Silliman

Date: 7 December 1839

Place: Salem, Massachusetts

Salem. Dec 7, 1839

My dear Sir,

I received your friendly letter here: I have given due attention to all the difficulties it enumerates. But as I must visit Newhaven to enjoy the pleasure of seeing it before I leave the country, and as I shall never again have the opportunity of doing this if it be omitted now (as in March we shall be on our journey to the Great West & from thence to Canada in September – from whence we shall probably go home¹⁰ — I have no choice left me but that of visiting Newhaven now or never – I must therefore risk the fate of the Lectures at all hazards — so many persons have read the Courses on Egypt - & Palestine [\[torn\]](#) various shapes that I have resolved to try the [\[torn\]](#) Countries named:¹¹ I will therefore thank you to engage for me the room which you think most eligible under all circumstances, of situation, comfort, & economy, for the dates named — then determine the best hour for the Morning Course to begin it — and filling up these blanks — give the Bill as written on the other side to the Printer — to print — post up — & deliver to the dwellings of the inhabitants as many as may be deemed a liberal supply for that purpose, so that early & extensive information shall be given of the Course with as little delay as possible — And if the Printer will send me a proof of the Bill by mail to Providence R.I. —it shall be sent [\[torn\]](#)

[\[page break\]](#)

¹⁰ Buckingham retired from Parliament in October, 1837, and immediately began a tour of North America that lasted for four years (*ODNB*). The *Boston Morning Post* reports him lecturing in Halifax, Nova Scotia in late 1840 (20 October 1840: 2).

¹¹ Buckingham's lectures on Palestine were controversial, and he was attacked by the Reverend Eli Smith, writing as "Palestinensis," in the *New York Observer*. See Eli Smith, *Public Address, Delivered by Mr. Buckingham, in Defence of His Lectures on Palestine* (New York: W. Molineux, 1840). Silliman had informed Buckingham of the identity of "Palestinensis."

corrected — by return of post — if he will furnish me with his address for that purpose – and I will then go through the necessary advertisement for the Papers, without troubling you further on the subject

This arrangement will keep sufficiently clear of Mr Combe,¹² who will then be at Lowell: and is indeed

[*beyond address fold*]

the only one I could make – tho it would have given me greater pleasure to be at Newhaven in the Summer & to have enjoyed more of your society while there – but we cannot always do as we desire — with many and sincere thanks for all your past kindness – which I feel has been very great - & hoping to see you before you leave home [torn] Mr dear Sir – very truly yours

J S Buckingham

Single Paid
Professor Silliman
Newhaven
Conn

J S Buckingham

¹² George Combe (1788-1858), the prominent Scottish phrenologist, delivered lectures at Lowell, MA between 16-20 December, 1839. “Biography and Character of George Combe,” *American Phrenological Journal* 14 [December 1851]: 127. Google books, accessed 19 January 2017, <https://books.google.com/books?id=Ao4eAQAAMAAJ>.

Thomas Crofton Croker to Dear Sir

Date: 1 August 1840

Place: Fulham, London

Rosamond's bower¹³

Fulham

1st August 1840

My dear Sir,

If you can ascertain with certainty
any of the following points, respecting your im=
mediate neighborhood, you will much oblige

Yours very truly

T. Crofton Croker

Jacob Tonson, the bookseller, and Secretary of the
Kit—Club is said to have had a house for some
time at the North end. -¹⁴

This must have been very early in the last cen=
=tury as Tonson died in 1735 in Herefordshire, having
lived previously at Barn Elms, where he probably
removed from North end.-

Quere, Which is Tonson's house or does it
remain.-

Foote

[page break]

Foote, the wit and dramatist, resided at North
end for many years, probably from 1760 to 1770.

This house in 1813 was occupied by Captain Cormand.

Quere, can you identify it?¹⁵

¹³ Croker was collecting materials for his series of articles, "A Walk from London to Fulham," the four parts of which appeared in *Fraser's Magazine* (January-April 1845). They were later expanded and published as a book by his son, Dillon Croker. In 1837 the family moved into a house in Fulham and Croker changed the name from "Brunswick Cottage" to "Rosamond's Bower," based on its location on a manorial estate called Rosamonds, the mansion of which he believed was the original palace of "Fair Rosamond," the mistress of Henry II.

¹⁴ North End Village, Fulham. Victorian developers beginning in 1876 obliterated the village and market gardens and the area was renamed West Kensington. Jacob Tonson, the younger (1682-1735), one of the best known and wealthiest publishing families of the age of Pope. At his death he left a fortune of £100,000 (*ODNB*).

Faulkner (History of Fulham) mentions that “the house formerly occupied by J. Richardson, of which a view is given in his “Correspondence,” is situated near Hammersmith Turnpike. It has been lately altered and is now occupied as two houses.-

Quere. Who was this J. Richardson, and what is his “Correspondence” about.- I cannot trace him in Watts’s *Bibliotheca Britannica*.¹⁶

Bartolozzi, the engraver, came to reside in 1777 in a house opposite Foot’s Villa.-¹⁷

Quere, can you identify his house for me, as well as the houses of any of his pupils who have resided at the North end, namely, Delatre, Vandenberg, Schenaker, Tomkins &c.

Dr. Crotch also resided at North end in 1815 certainly

[page break]

certainly, and probably later. I have a lithographic Sketch of his house (of which I send you an idea) with this inscription “Wm Crotch, Grove Cottage, North End, Fulham, Aug 31 1815.”¹⁸

Quere, Can you point this house out to me?

[sketch of house]

¹⁵ Samuel Foote (1721-1777), noted actor and playwright. He built “The Hermitage” in North End Village, Fulham, which he retained until his death (see *ODNB*). Captain Cormand is unidentified.

¹⁶ Thomas Faulkner, *An Historical and Topographical Account of Fulham; including the Hamlet of Hammersmith* (London: T. Egerton, et al., 1813). Faulkner’s “J. Richardson” is a typographical error for “S. Richardson”—i.e., Samuel Richardson, the novelist (1689-1761). See Croker’s *A Walk from London to Fulham*, revised and edited by T. F. Dillon Croker (London: William Tegg, 1860): 202-210 for details of Richardson’s house and Croker’s drawing of it. Robert Watt, M.D. *Bibliotheca Britannica; or A General Index to British and Foreign Literature*, 4 vols. (Edinburgh: Constable, 1824). The fact that Croker is ignorant of Richardson’s house indicates that this letter is at the very start of his researches for “A Walk.”

¹⁷ Francesco Bartolozzi (1728-1815), one of the leading engravers of the age (*ODNB*).

¹⁸ William Crotch (1775-1847), a musical prodigy who began performing at age 3; he was made Professor of Music at Oxford in 1797. He was a prolific composer and teacher (*ODNB*).

These are the queries that occur to me
at the present moment, but if you can add other=
=wise to my small stock of gossip, you will make
me much your debtor.-

Eyre Evans Crowe to the Rev. Moore

Date: 12 June 1826

Place: Boulogne Sur Mer

[cover]

[Stamp] 61 BOULOGNE SUR MER

A Monsieur

Revd Moore

Hotel D'Hollande

Rue Neuve des Bons Enfants

Paris

[postmark] Jun 12 1826

[first page]

Boulogne Sur Mer, Rue des Pipots

No. 70

June 10th 1826-.

[different hand, Moore's?] ans^d. 23rd

I am quite ashamed, mr Dear Rv. Moore,
at the time that has elapsed betwixt your kind letter
and this, my tardy reply. I was, however, on the continent
when it arrived, and have since my return been, first of all,
ill, & next, irresolute, whether I should direct my steps
to France or not : and on that account I delayed
writing, as the books, that you have been good enough to
buy for me, acceptable and useful as they would
prove to me in England, will prove doubly so in France.

I have removed with me & mine to this healthy place,
where I shall remain, perhaps for some time. But as that
perhaps is yet uncertain, I must beg you to preserve
for me the books a little while longer, when I hope to
thank you in person for yr. trouble & remembrance of me,
an also to pay you the trifling sum, at which you have
procured me such a library.

With respect to the other books we will think of them
in a little time. The Memories &c, valuable as they

may & must be, which you possess[?], must be dead for this season, of which I need offer you little proof, than that Lauvert has found it impossible to dispose of the translation of Chateaubriand's works in London, tho' he came over for that purpose. He at least had not succeeded, when I was told of his mission[?]. Certainly he asked for a larger price.¹⁹

[page break]

Next season it is to be hoped that the public will be hungry after publication, owing to the forced fast of this, & something may then be done.²⁰ I will exert myself willingly then, but at the present moment booksellers are each & all, as savage & unmanagable, as any beast of the menagerie.

Poor Forbes promised me several autographs for you – but his fate has blighted many fair hopes and promises.²¹ The only one I could procure as yet, is a note of Campbell's to me,²² which I enclose –

Hoping that the air of this place may detain me full three months from Paris, in which case I must write [illegible] it.

Believe me

¹⁹ Henry Colburn brought out in London a translation of Chateaubriand's *The Natchez* in three volumes in 1827, and of his *Travels in America and Italy* in 1828. There is no indication of the translator. I have been unable to identify Lauvert.

²⁰ Crowe refers to the depression in publishing following the banking crisis of 1825-26 that bankrupted several firms, most famously Archibald Constable & Co., which left Sir Walter Scott in massive debt. Because of the lack of capital, the number of books published dropped. Crowe had himself suffered because of William Blackwood's reluctance to put his novel *Vittoria Colonna* to press before he left England for reasons of health; it was never published. See his letter to Blackwood of 15 May 1826 (Nell Bennett, "Three Irish Contributors to *Blackwood's Magazine*: Eyre Evans Crowe, George Downes, and Horatio Townsend," MA thesis, Texas Tech, 1958: 87-88. URI <http://hdl.handle.net/2346/20957>).

²¹ Possibly the *Blackwood's* contributor William Henry Hay Forbes. Forbes, like Crowe, was a friend of Maginn's, but by 1824 was out of favor with William Blackwood, who regarded him with "loathing and disgust," probably because he was writing for the rival *London Magazine* (William Blackwood to William Maginn, 19 Oct 1824; National Library of Scotland MS 30306 f.356).

²² The Scottish poet and editor of the *New Monthly Magazine* Thomas Campbell (1777-1844).

My Dear M. Moore
your obliged friend & Serv^t.
Eyre Evans Crowe

John T. Delane to John Gibson Lockhart
Date: 25 September 184?²³
Place: London

16 Sergants Inn
Sept 25th

Dear Mr Lockhart,

I send you the best
information I can get
in reply to Mr Croker's²⁴
questions and am only
sorry it should be so im-
perfect and have been
so long delayed.

Believe me
Faithfully yours
John T. Delane

²³ Delane went to work for the *Times* 1840—before then he was at Oxford (*ODNB*).

²⁴ John Wilson Croker was one of the mainstays of the *Quarterly Review* which was edited by Lockhart.

Stanley Lees Giffard to Mr. Venables²⁵

Date: c1835

Place: London

Myddelton Square²⁶ Monday evening

Confidential

My dear Sir

I much wish for a hint from you on the corporation question²⁷ — I have printed to-day my own views which are trenchant enough but I have been careful to be so vague as to reserve the power of dealing with most particulars as you shall advise. There is a reason why I am more especially anxious that you will advise me speedily, not altogether connected with News: =paper work

I have learned that the Bristol Corporation anxious to support Sir Robert Peels views as those of the Statesman upon whom all now depends – will if rightly advised

[open to center fold]

by their representatives, as they are sure to be,

²⁵ Not yet identified. One possibility, though unlikely, is William Venables, a wholesale stationer and paper manufacturer who served as Lord Mayor of London in 1825-26. He was elected to Parliament as a supporter of the Reform Bill in 1831, and had supported the Catholic Relief Act in 1829, so Giffard's appeal to Conservative solidarity in the letter may rule him out, though his trade would have given him a connection with the newspaper. (Accessed 17 January 2017, <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/venables-william-1785-1840>.)

²⁶ Giffard and his family lived at 39 Myddelton Square, Clerkenwell. This was a new development in the 1820s, with rows of Georgian houses surrounding St. Mark's Church (built 1825-1827).

²⁷ After 1832, the municipal corporations (numbering about 250) were due for reform, and in February 1833 a Royal Commission was set up by the Whig government to make recommendations for reform. This letter may have been written in the gap between the Commission report in 1835 (printed 30 March, 1835) and the passage of the Municipal Corporation Bill on 9 September 1835. The corporations were a source of Tory strength.

go the length of setting whatever examples can be defined – they will I doubt not give up the local jurisdiction – both as respects the more solemn administration of justice and the election to the commission of the peace – and not insist upon a more than a fair and well guarded trusteeship of corporate property – In short they will take the lead in whatever shall be thought best for the conservative cause.

A deputation left town this evening with the purpose of making the proper arrangements, and I think you will see the advantage of such an example set by the second City and the first conservative corporation in the Kingdom.

[\[second column\]](#)

Such an example would silence the enemy as to the selfish obstinacy of conservative bodies – and would not fail to afford a useful hint to the smaller conservative corporations and their patrons amongst the benighted aristocracy.

I trust you will not suspect me of writing without authority, and see the necessity of giving a prompt hint, but I am not in the least ambitious of being the channel of communications upon matters so much above my proper sphere; and all I am anxious about is that no so good opportunity be lost; and if the hint is given to my betters – who are as sincerely attached to the cause of your friend [\[illegible\]](#) and [\[illegible\]](#) as I am – (they cannot be more so-) I will be even better pleased – I am my dear sir with great respect faithfully your obliged humble servant

Stanley Lees Giffard

[\[pencil and different hand\]](#) 1788-1858

Ed. of the ‘Standard’

[\[back\]](#)

To Mr Venables

John Abraham Heraud to John Gibson Lockhart

Date: 29? October 1832

Place: London

My dear Sir,

Understanding that you have returned to town, I write to you to express my sympathy with the loss which you have recently experienced. Believe me that the death of Scott has not been without its influence on my heart and mind.²⁸ I have appreciated (as you well know) his genius too highly for the event to be a matter of indifference to me. All that I have been able at present to do is to express my feelings briefly in a few verses, which I insert this month in F. M. in company with H. Jesses Monody.²⁹ When my mind has recovered from what now oppresses it in regard to this subject,

[page break]

I will do more and of more importance.

I should be much obliged to you, if you decide at once upon my article on Mysticism.³⁰ I entertain a high opinion of it, and hope that you will not intentionally neglect it. I have purposefully & continuously abstained from reminding you of it these many months, knowing the way in which your thoughts & affections must be

²⁸ Sir Walter Scott, Lockhart's father-in-law, died 21 Sept 1832, at his estate of Abbotsford.

²⁹ Heraud was a sub-editor of *Fraser's* at this time. His "On the Death of Sir Walter Scott, Bart." and the "A Monody of the Death of Sir Walter Scott" of John Heneage Jesse (1809-1874) appeared in volume 6 (November 1832): 604-606.

³⁰ Lockhart was editor of the *Quarterly Review*; the article on mysticism appears never to have been published.

occupied. Now, however, I should feel gratified by your showing so much regard for me as to bestow such ready attention upon it, and the Lives, etc.,³¹ as may be compatible with your other interests.

Believe me,

My dear Sir yrs very truly

[*illegible*] Heraud

29[?] Octr 1832

³¹ The "Lives" referred to are unidentified.

Thomas Hill to James Fraser

Date: July 1834

Place: London?

Mr Dear Sir

Mr. Hook³² inadvertently destroyed the note to which my signature was attached³³ – he request me to send it to you.

Dear Sir

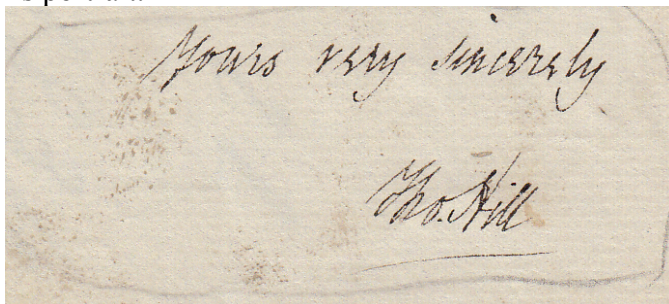
Yours very sincerely

Tho.Hill

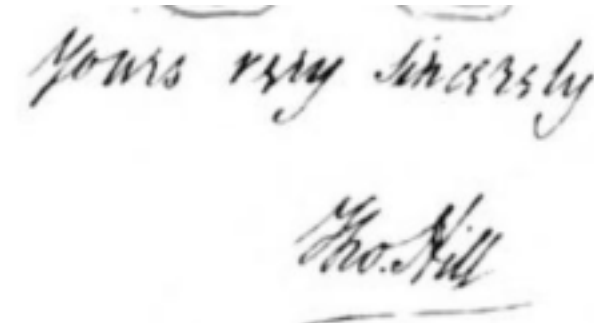
Sunday morning.

³² Theodore Hook (1788-1841), the wit, novelist, journalist and editor of the *John Bull* Sunday paper, and associate of John Wilson Croker.

³³ Thomas Hill was the subject of the "Gallery of Literary Characters. No. LI. Thomas Hill, Esq., F.A.S." *Fraser's Magazine* 10 (August 1834: 172), with a portrait by Daniel Maclise and text by William Maginn. Hill is writing to supply his signature so that it can be lithographed as part of his portrait.



From this letter



As lithographed in *Fraser's*

Letitia Elizabeth Landon

Date: 1820s?

Place: London

Dear Sir. Could you have
the kindness to forward
the accompanying packet
to Mr d'Israeli³⁴
at once , you will do
such a favour to
dear Sir
your obliged
L. E. L.

³⁴ Isaac d'Israeli (1766-1848), writer and father of Benjamin Disraeli, whose most popular work was *Curiousities of Literature*, published in multiple volumes over a span of over thirty years. This note may be in connection with his writing for the *Literary Gazette* in the 1820s.

Walter Lane to Edward Dixon Pouchée

Date: 1 March 1827

Place: London

1st March 1827

Sir

You will please to have the inclosed letter sent to Doctor Maginn or Mr. Westmacott.³⁵ From illness, I have not been able to do anything for the paper this week, and from the severe illness of two relatives, I am preparing to leave London. I have informed Doctor Maginn and Mr. Westmacott of my intention and to these gentlemen you will please to send the Irish papers in the future.³⁶

I am

Sir

Your ob. sert.

Waltr Lane

E.D. Pouchee Esq

18 Norfolk Street
Strand

[*opposite side address—folded into envelope, black seal*]

E : D: Pouchee Esq.

7 Brydges Street

Covent Garden³⁷

³⁵ This letter, dated prior to Charles Molloy Westmacott's first issue of *The Age* in July, 1827, is the earliest indication of a working relationship between William Maginn and Westmacott. Maginn's defenders, especially Miriam Thrall in her *Rebellious Fraser's: Nol Yorke's Magazine in the Days of Maginn, Thackeray, and Carlyle* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1934), have frequently denied or minimized the relationship because of Westmacott's reputation as a blackmailer. See David Latané, *William Maginn and the British Press: A Critical Biography* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2013), for a fuller discussion.

³⁶ Scissors and paste journalism was standard, so a regular supply of papers from outside London was a necessity.

³⁷ The address of the *News of Literature and Fashion* (12 June 1824 - 19 Aug 1826), an 8 penny Saturday weekly, as well as the Sunday *English Gentleman* (19 Dec 1824 - 18 Nov 1827, 7 pence), both published by E. D. Pouchée. Westmacott purchased the *English Gentleman* in November, 1827, and changed it to *The Nimrod* to focus on sporting news (*Waterloo*).

John Gibson Lockhart to Anne Morritt
Date: 26 March 1839
Place: London

London. March 26. 1839

My dear Miss Morritt³⁸ This
will be handed to you by
my children to whom I know
you will be good as you always
are. Pray if William be
in Brighton tell him that
I trust he will consider
Walter w a paternal eye
as regards horseman ship
& swimming &c &c.³⁹ I
am sure he will

[page break]

I have a long letter from the
Squire⁴⁰ today. He is now
at Clifton & thinks of
leaving here between the
15 & 20th of April I
hope to stay a good while —
'Tis a pity for me he did
not come sooner as I
shall be very solitary
during these holidays.

[column break]

Mrs G. Mildmay⁴¹ is far

³⁸ Anne Morritt (1773 c.-1848) was the sister of Sir Walter Scott's friend John Bacon Sawrey Morritt of Rokeby. She was intimate with the Lockhart family.

³⁹ Walter Scott Lockhart (1826-1853) was Lockhart and his wife Charlotte Scott Lockhart's second son. "William" may refer to Anne's nephew William Morritt (1813-1874), who would inherit the Rokeby Park estate.

⁴⁰ Unidentified.

⁴¹ The Mildmays were a prominent, ancient, and extended family. Jane Carlyle comments on a visit in 1858 by Mrs. George Mildmay, "She is very good humored and lively. She took Emily

handsomer & I think far
more agreeable than ever. I
was to have dined there one
day last week but alas!
this horrid death of poor
Humphrey's charming wife⁴² -
I don't know if you knew
her — but if you did I am
sure you must have loved
her. Ever[??]
J. G. Lockhart

and me over to The Isle of Wight the other day, to call for certain Mildmays rustivating there, and to show us St Clair the most beautiful little Paradise of ——*geraniums!*” (Carlyle Letters Online; Jane Carlyle to Lady Sandwich, 9 August 1858).

⁴² Humphrey St. John Mildmay (1794-1853), whose wife Anne Baring Mildmay died 8 March 1839. A veteran of the Peninsular War, he became a partner in the Baring bank and a director of the Bank of England.

Daniel Maclise to William Jerdan
Date 24 December 1831
Place: London

Dear Sir

I had a note from Mrs.
Croker – herself still jocose
and reminding me of a
promise I made to dine
with Crofton⁴³ Christmas day
with the other inducement
of its being her first appear
ance these four months
so

We can't refuse
We can't refuse
Where invites so abound boys
Tis hard to choose
Tis hard to choose⁴⁴

But they dine at three

[page break]

and I should like to
call on you as I walk
back to town⁴⁵ at eight or so
thereby giving myself a
double pleasure, the more
necessary, as to-morrow ought
to unite the joys of two
holidays –

I remain dear Sir
Your very obliged Servt.

⁴³ Thomas Crofton Croker married Marianne Nicholson in 1830; their only child Dillon was born 26 Aug 1831, and Marianne had thus not been receiving company (*ODNB*).

⁴⁴ A play on Thomas Moore's "To Ladies' Eyes" from the *Irish Melodies*: "To ladies' eyes a round, boy, / We can't refuse, we can't refuse, / Though bright eyes so abound, boy" *The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore*, new edition (Boston: Crosby, 1860): 241.

⁴⁵ Maclise's lodgings in Upper Charlotte St, Fitzroy Square would have been about a three-mile walk from Jerdan's home in Brompton, then distinctly suburban.

Daniel Maclise

Saturday
24 Dec. Charlotte St
Fitzroy Sq

[*Cover*]

[*Stamp*]
Berners St

W. Jerdan, Esq.
Grove House⁴⁶
Brompton

⁴⁶ Berners street runs parallel to Charlotte Street, and is presumably the location of the Post Office. Jerdan and his family lived in Grove House, a substantial villa that in the eighteenth-century had been the home of Henry Fielding's brother.

William Maginn to Charles Molloy Westmacott

Date: c 1830s

Place: London

Dear W.

There is a project afoot which
I think we might make our own
and which if it had success might
be a most capital thing.⁴⁷

Where cd. I see you tomorrow
for five minutes. Send me word by
[illegible].

yours WM

⁴⁷ Nothing is known about this project. Westmacott was a shrewd businessman, and while Maginn wrote for his newspapers, *The Age* and the later *Argus*, it is unlikely he would have partnered in business with someone as impecunious as Maginn. This may, however, refer to *The Argus* if Maginn had gotten wind of the possibility of backers looking to finance a new weekly paper.

William Maginn to Charles Molloy Westmacott

Date: 1830s

Place: London

Dear W.

Send me a sheaf
of orders for all *[illegible]* things
[illegible], &c&c and a
Couple of E. Operas for
tomorrow night.⁴⁸ I shall
not trouble you again for
a long time. Direct them

[page break]

to me at 42 Gt. Russell St.
Bloomsbury,⁴⁹ per twopenny

yrs*[illegible]*
WM

⁴⁸ As a newspaper proprietor and editor, Westmacott would have been the recipient of many complimentary tickets.

⁴⁹ Maginn dated letters from this address also in 1825 (Sep 20) and 1829 (Dec 30). The building, close by the British Museum, was insured by Charles Savage, a carver and gilder, in 1833 (accessed November 12, 2016, <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/bb732579-ef5f-40b2-be15-37ead26881ae>). Maginn probably stayed with friends at this location, rather than having it as his family home.

William Maginn to Charles Molloy Westmacott

Date: 1834

Place: London

Dear W. Much to my
astonishment Charles Bald
win is, I find, about to call
on you tomorrow to ask
you for some money on
my behalf.⁵⁰ You may well
believe me when I assure
you I never *[illegible]*
anything of the kind. If
[page break]
you should see him oblige
me by saying something like
this – that I have no claim
whatever upon you, as I do
not write for the Age except
perhaps now and then a
quiz or so – and that there
never were any pecuniary
dealings between us.⁵¹ This
can be of no harm to you

[next half page column]

and may do me a great
deal of good. As for giving
him any money act in
that as you please.

ys tr

WM

⁵⁰ Charles Baldwin, publisher of the *Standard* newspaper with which Maginn was associated, organized an effort among Maginn's friends in 1834 to pay off debts in order to keep him out of prison. For details, see Latané, *William Maginn and the British Press*,

⁵¹ It's possible that Baldwin had asked Maginn not to write for pay for any other newspapers; a "quiz" would be a sort of squib that might be submitted as a joke rather than remunerated work. *The Age* was considered scurrilous and rumored to extort money from those embroiled in scandal not to publish information. Maginn would not want the more respectable backers of the Tory press to associate him with the paper. His concealment led Miriam Thrall, in her pioneering *Rebellious Fraser's* to conclude that statements by Maginn's enemies that he worked with Westmacott were baseless slander.

William Maginn to Charles Molloy Westmacott

Date: 1834?

Place: London

Dear W.

Could you let me
have a £5 per
bearer. I'll settle
with you at four o'
clock –

faithfully your

WM

William Maginn to Edward Vaughan Kenealy

Date: late 1841, early 1842

Place: Reading?⁵²

Thursdy

Dear K. My visits to London
are by chance, and very
short — Do not expect me
tomorrow. If I remain un:
:til Saturday, I will certainly
call at Furnivalls Inn⁵³ —
but as I am not certain, do
not wait beyond one o'clock
on any account. Yrs WM

[glued to same album page in Kenealy's hand]

The following criticism I received from D[r]
Maginn. It was published in the Berkshire
Chronicle, and was written by the Doctor.⁵⁴

[newspaper clipping]

⁵² After being released from Queen's Bench Prison in Spring 1841, Maginn and his family resided in Reading. He wrote John Blackwood from there on 15 Dec 1841.

⁵³ Furnival's Inn was originally one of the Inns of Chancery, and earlier in the nineteenth-century was associated with Lincoln's Inn. The medieval building was dilapidated and replaced by apartments after 1818, and the name was kept. Dickens lived in one from 1834 to 1837. Kenealy was in London studying law.

⁵⁴ The clipping was from an unsigned review of the month's magazines, which also contains interesting thoughts by Maginn on a criticism in the *Times* of *Blackwood's*. "The Magazines," *Berkshire Chronicle*, 15 Jan 1842: 4.

Fraser's Magazine has not lost any of its original brightness by the death of its late lamented proprietor, to whom a handsome tribute of regret and respectful affection is paid in the preface. The new managers appear determined to show that Oliver Yorke is as vigorous as ever, and the papers contributed by Apperly (Nimrod), and Kinaley—a new name in literature, but one that bids fair to rival in his own way Father Prout—are admirable. The Brallaghan correspondence is one of the wittiest papers we have read a long time; and we may without any exaggeration say that this month's *Fraser* is the best number ever issued from the head-quarters of literary toryism. *Vivat Regina.*

William Maginn to Edward Vaughan Kenealy⁵⁵

Date: February 1842

Place: London

Dear Kenealy. How could
you possibly think that
I was offended by the
overflowing kindness of
of your notices.⁵⁶ Nickisson
must have greatly mistaken
if he imagined anything of
the kind.⁵⁷ I certainly did say

[page break]

that I thought the comple:
ments extravagant, es:
pecially as appearing in
a quarter so much co:
nected with my name.
— but surely there is
nobody connected with
the Scribbling trade who
can be at the bottom of
his heart annoyed by

[next column]

⁵⁵ This letter was published by Kenealy in 1845 *Brallaghan, or The Deipnosophists* (London: E. Churton, 1845): 334.

⁵⁶ Kenealy's "A letther from Mr. Barney Brallaghan. . ." appeared in *Fraser's* (Jan 1842, 65-80; Feb 1842, 160-181); it contained extravagant and extensive praise of Maginn. Kenealy wrote Maginn on 1 March, replying to this note, describing his conversation with Nickisson regarding the rejection of a third part to "Brallaghan": "Nickisson expressly told me as a reason for not having published my third paper this month that 'he had been so blown up by several persons, that he really felt it necessary that the papers should be altered, and personal allusions omitted.' Among the persons whom he named were you and Crofton Croker. In reply I stated that I was astonished you should be annoyed, for that I had shown you what I considered might be the only portion you would object to, namely a characterization of Moore, and that all you had said was "you make a terrible fellow of me." Nickisson however allowed me to leave his shop with the impression that you had been annoyed, and had so expressed yourself I only wish you could have seen my face at the time." Huntington Library manuscript, HM 38721.

⁵⁷ George William Nickisson became publisher and editor of *Fraser's* after the death of James Fraser, 2 Oct 1841; in July 1847 the magazine was purchased by John William Parker, Jr.

flattery “what cat refuses
fish.” If that is all the
offence you offer me or
anybody else, my dear Kenealy,
you will rub through life
easily enough. Come over
and spend the evening
with me, my wife, and
my daughter, if not better
engaged, tomorrow Evening

[page break]

calling about seven o'clock⁵⁸

yrs faithfully
William Maginn

55 Upper Stamford St⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Maginn's and his wife Ellen Bullen Maginn had two daughters, Anne ("Annie," b. 25 Nov 1824 in London), and Ellen (b. 31 Dec 1825 in Paris). Annie and Kenealy corresponded in a seemingly flirtatious way after Maginn's death in letters in the Kenealy papers at the Huntington Library, so she was probably the daughter mentioned here.

⁵⁹ Maginn first uses this address in Blackfriars, Surrey in 1834; it is very close to Queen's Bench Prison, where Maginn may have been imprisoned for debt (see Latané, *William Maginn and the British Press*, Chap 17 for a discussion of this period of Maginn's life).

William Maginn to R. Jones, Esq.⁶⁰

Date: 1830s?

Place: London?

Dear Sir

I shall do myself the
pleasure of waiting on you at
dinner on Sunday next.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours Faithfully

William Maginn

Friday Morning

R. Jones Esq

[Different hand] Dr Maginn

⁶⁰ I have identified the recipient as Robert Walker Jones, whom Thomas Crosbie, in *Theme: Dr. Maginn, with a Few Variations* (Dublin: Eason & Son, 1895), identifies as a music professor for Maginn's daughters. He is also thanked by Robert Shelton Mackenzie for providing information about Maginn's life in the dedication to Mackenzie's edition of Maginn's *Miscellaneous Writings* (New York: Redfield, 1855-1857). Another candidate might be the dramatist Richard Jones (1779-1851), whom Maginn puffed as William Blackwood's friend in 1829 (Cooke 652).

William Maginn to Thomas Crofton Croker

Date: possibly 1827⁶¹

Place: London

Dear Croft

Could you mortgage
St Patrick for me for 30£
I want to bring home my
wife, and shall sell you the
work for that sum.

Drop me a note –

I am Dear Croft

Yours ever

WM

⁶¹ After the birth of their son John in April 1827, Ellen Maginn was unwell and went back to Ireland to recuperate. This letter may date from that year. "St. Patrick" is a mystery.

William Maginn to Thomas Crofton Croker
Date: after 1831
Place: London

[Address on left side of folded paper]

T. C. Croker Esq

Dear Croft

I return Hardiman⁶²
with many thanks.

Yrs. &c.

WM

⁶² *Irish Minstrelsy, or Bardic Remains of Ireland; with English Poetical Translations*. Collected and Edited, with Notes and Illustrations, by James Hardiman, M. R. I. A. 2 Vols. London: Joseph Robins, Bride Court, Bridge Street, 1831. Croker was a leading Irish folklorist and antiquarian and had a large collection of books on the subjects.

Joseph Gibbons Merle to Charles Molloy Westmacott

Date: January 15, 1832

Place: London

Private

C. M. Westmacott Esq

GM

[over]

My Dear Sir

I am quite sure that the piece
of ill nature in the Age on the
Courier was not written by you – It
is altogether of the Standard standard.⁶³
Let me set you right on one point --- It
is not true that the Courier is
~~keek~~ kicked out of the government offices
but it is true that we have quarrelled
with Lord Palmerston & why – because
we would not be dependent upon him
and defend his policy – I think as
an independent man yourself you
ought not to allow persons to insult
me for no other reason than that I
am independent

Yours very truly

Gibbons Merle

Courier Office Jan

15. 1832

[Inside in another hand]

Joseph Gibbons Merle

⁶³ Westmacott was owner and editor of the *Age*, a Sunday paper. Merle was briefly editor of the *Courier* and also worked with *The Globe*. He is protesting a piece titled “The Battle of the Bantams” (14 Jan 1832, p. 20) that mocks both papers, accusing the *Globe* of undercutting the *Courier*’s access to foreign office inside information. The remark about the *Standard* implies that Merle blames the attack on his paper on William Maginn, who wrote for *The Age* but was most associated with the evening *Standard*.

Originally Editor of "The True Briton"—a daily Evening Paper (1820 in support of the orange institutions—promoted by Lord Kenyon who found the means. Merle, afterwards conducted "the Globe" and then became Editor for a short time of "the Courier"—Eventually he got into difficulties—and about the year 1848 became one of the Editors of Galignani's Messenger—where he continued up to the time of his death in 1855.

The article in question from *The Age* (14 January 1832): 20.

THE BATTLE OF THE BANTAMS.—The Cervantes of the *Globe*, in a merry vein at having most completely usurped the *official character* of the *Courier*, has been, during the past week, tilting a lance with the fallen *Don Quixote*, and most inhumanly, as we think, pushing his spear home to the very ribs of his adversary; and the poor crest-fallen *Courier* has very feebly, but feelingly, remonstrated against the ill-timed mirth of his more fortunate rival. Now really the *Globe* ought to be content with having driven the *Courier* from all association with the Government Offices, even to a Treasury porter, without exulting in the uncharitable way in which they did, on Friday night, over their opposite neighbour. For instance, in what follows, the *Globe* not only informs the public that the *Courier* is *shut out* of the *Foreign Office*, but they actually invite the very dogs of Downing-street to bark at him:—

"In his paper of yesterday, he (the *Courier*) announces in the leading article, and with all the pomp and circumstance of an official intimation, that certain transactions took place at the Foreign Office late on the preceding evening. But the *Courier* knows well that they can now have no *legitimate* means of communication with that department."

And again, they charge the *Courier* with "wilful deception"—with holding a *dishonest communication* with official subalterns—with *truckling with the agents of foreign nations*, &c. &c.; and having thus lacerated our poor friend of the *Courier* at all points, conclude their observations by the following bitter bit of badinage:—

"Only think of an admonition from the *Courier* to the *Globe*, on the score of *consistency*, and partiality to official avenues! The austerity of La Fontaine's "Sister Jane" is alone equal to it. But so it is; no people are so verbally righteous as involuntary penitents. The *wolf*, says the fabulist, on one occasion discoursed excellent morality—it was when he had the bone in his throat!"

We have a very great respect for the *Globe*, and very little, if any, for the *Courier*; but for all that we cannot, as Englishmen, suffer such unfair advantage to be taken of a *prostrate enemy*, without entering our protest against it.

Mary Russell Mitford to Mrs. Mary Cockburn

Date: circa 1841

Place: Three Miles Cross, Berkshire?

I write dearest Mrs. Cockburn
lest by any chance two letters of mine
one addressed to Leamington briefly
the other to Hamilton House West
Leamington,⁶⁴ should have failed to find
you, to tell you not only how very
very much we are indebted to you for
your magnificent present of grouse,
but how glad I would be to see you if
your convenience will permit such
an indulgence to your poor friend. Though
I can only answer for myself I hope that
my dear father might be well enough
to have the great satisfaction of an
introduction to Mr. Cockburn⁶⁵ — I have
been grievously alarmed by his
state of health this autumn — but it
seems as if the immediate danger had
passed away, though great weakness re-
=mains — the use of three fingers of the
left hand is gone, & the whole hand &
arm so much [*blot*] weakened that we
cannot get it into a coat, & are obliged
to be content with a loose dressing gown

[*page break*]

- the articulation— thus is [?] — but
I hope & believe that the intellect is [?]
- that it is only just bodily breakup
from which he suffers & [*blot*] terrible
depression — Still he is better - & I do

⁶⁴ The Royal Spa town in Warwickshire; the Cockburns may have been taking the waters for their health; they normally resided in Edinburgh.

⁶⁵ Robert Cockburn (1780-1844) was the brother of Henry, Lord Cockburn, the celebrated Scottish judge. A wine merchant specializing in Portuguese vintages, he was an associate of the Ruskins. Mitford wrote Elizabeth Barrett on 14 Jan 1841 reporting that after attending the Quarter Sessions her father was "again very ill" (L'Estrange 3: 112).

hope that he would be able to see you
both should we have that happiness –
but it is much to ask, for the
garden is gone - & I am little better
than a sick nurse having for above
four years passed my days & nights
at my poor father's bedside while
my very faculties seem degraded to
the cares of the body — cares sanctified
it is true by duty & affection, but still
most [blot] [illegible] to all
who are absorbed in them. — I trust
Mr. Cockburn enjoyed his Scottish
visit – I should have much to hear &
to ask if I saw him having heard fre-
quently both from the Queen's favorite
attendant Miss [illegible] & a cousin of
mine who is on a visit [blot] to the
Duchess of Atholl of Dunkeld.⁶⁶— However
bless you dearest Mrs. Cockburn – forgive
this bad scrawl - & believe me most
gratefully your's MRMitford

⁶⁶ Anne Murray, Duchess of Atholl (1814–1897), a close friend of Queen Victoria (she was made Mistress of the Robes in 1852. Dunkeld House, in the small town in Perthshire, was one of the Duke's estates.

David Macbeth Moir to Blackwood
Date: October 25, 1837
Place: Musselburgh, Scotland

Musselburgh 3d Oct. 1837

Dear Sir,⁶⁷

With this I send the title page, dedication and table of contents for Vol. 1 of Macnish,⁶⁸ and have sent to the engraver to have the plate ready during the week⁶⁹—so that I hope we will soon get on with the second volume.—I will send rest of materials for second volume whenever required but think that there are still some in hand.

May I ask as a personal favour that you would cause half a dozen or a dozen title pages as per opposite page to be thrown off for my private use. This however as you think fit, and any additional expense I would of course be glad to pay. – Believe me to be
?????

DM Moir

⁶⁷ Either Alexander or Robert Blackwood, who took over the business after the death of their father in 1834. Margaret Oliphant, in her history of the firm, noted at this time that “William Blackwood himself was not more determined nor more successful in making his power felt than his two successors, who, if they ever had difference of opinion, never showed it, and acted as one with a unity and solidarity — if the word may be used in English — of the most extraordinary kind. Whether the letters were addressed to Alexander or Robert mattered nothing: there does not seem, so far as the business was concerned, to be anything visible even of that division of labour which is usually thought convenient in such circumstances.” 2:215.

⁶⁸ *The Modern Pythagorean: A Series of Tales, Essays, Sketches by the late Robert Macnish, with the Author's Life, by his Friend D. M. Moir*, 2 vols (Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons, 1838). Macnish died on 16 Jan 1837. Though the title page reads 1838, the dedication of volume one is dated 1 November 1837, and the book was advertised in *John Bull* as “Just Published” and reviewed in *The Atlas* on 17 December, 1837. Volume one included Moir’s biography of his friend.

⁶⁹ The engraved frontispiece of the bust of Macnish by T. Dobbie.

Robert Montgomery to My dear Sir

Date: 1844-1845

Place: London?⁷⁰

My dear Sir

You seem to
feel so earnestly in
in behalf of the Church
in Scotland, that perhaps
you may like to
glance over the Letter
[scratched out] which I published
some months since
of which you will
find a partial

[page break]

reprint in the
“*[illegible]*” I send you.⁷¹
The English Bishops &
the Scottish & our
leading Churchmen
have all welcomed
this attempt to
support Catholic
truth. The next
number will
continue the

⁷⁰ Montgomery left his position at St. Jude's Scottish Episcopal Church in Glasgow in 1842 and was at this time minister at Percy Chapel in London's Bedford Square (ODNB).

⁷¹ The controversies surrounding the Tractarian or Oxford Movement were affecting the Scottish Episcopal Church in the 1840s. Montgomery weighed in with several letters which were widely circulated. The *Statesman and Dublin Christian Record* (7 Jan 1845, p.2) in an article on the "Scottish Episcopal Church" mentions "a wordy and disgusting letter of the Rev. Robert Montgomery, which we have had lying by us for some weeks past." This was most likely "Letter from the Rev. Robert Montgomery, M. A., to one of the Managers of St. Jude's (Glasgow: D. Russell, 1844). Montgomery collected his various contributions to the debate in *The Scottish Church and the English Schismatics; Being Letters on the Recent Schism in Scotland*. . . . 3rd ed. (London: Joseph Masters, 1847).

[page break]

response[?], but the
notes[?] & “appendix”[?]
will not I imagine
be transferred into
the paper.

Can you get a
few subscribers to this
Journal? It is
only 3^d a number.
I have no personal
interest in it

[page break]

whatever, except
that the Editor
is a Episcopalian
in Scottish order.

always, my dear Sr
Yrs faithfully
Robert Montgomery

Tuesday Afternoon.

Louisa Henrietta Sheridan to “Madam” [a magazine editor]⁷²

Date: March 19, 1838

Place: London?

March 19th 1838

Dear Madam

I totally forgot to say yesterday that I intend to have the pleasure of reviewing for you the novel of Lady S - - will it not be too late for this month?⁷³ I know she would rather have it in May, because the season will then be better advanced, and if you can arrange so that I may write it for her by that time, it will be most satisfactory.

You would have smiled had you remained to see the whole of my kind friends who formed my Levee yesterday; the last carriage lingered until 1/2 past 6!

Your friend appears very gentlemanly and agreeable, and I regret that I

[page break]

could not see, or rather hear more of him; but at some future day

⁷² Sheridan is still an obscure figure given her uniqueness as a woman editor of a humorous annual, *The Comic Offering*. See Tamara L. Hunt, “Louisa Henrietta Sheridan’s *Comic Offering*” for an appraisal—though with very little biographical information.

⁷³ This probably refers to Catherine, Lady Stepney’s *The Courtier’s Daughter* a three-volume “silver fork” novel published by Henry Colburn in late February, 1838. Lady Stepney patronized other women authors, though it was rumored by Mary Mitford that her own work was ghosted by Letitia Landon (ODNB, “Stepney, Catherine, Lady Stepney”). An unsigned review of *The Courtier’s Daughter* appears in the May, 1838, issue of *The Court Magazine and Monthly Critic* (pp. 452-454) and it is possible that this is the review that Sheridan promises to write for “Dear Madam.” *The Court Magazine* was the successor to *La Belle Assemblée*, edited by Caroline Norton until 1837, as well as the old *Lady’s Magazine*.

perhaps he will accompany you here.

The gentleman who came last, (with his family) was Lord Grey's favorite, and principal Secretary, while he was Prime Minister : he is brother to the learned Col. Martin=Leake the author and traveller,⁷⁴ - and holds a fine appointment now in the Treasury.⁷⁵ Lord Gray used to frank all my letters while he was Premier : and I remember Miss Strickland laughing at the deference and consequence she obtained at a boarding house from one of my letters arriving franked by the Prime Minister !!⁷⁶ They thought she must be in close correspondence with Government !!

Yours dear Madam very Truly
Louisa : H : Sheridan

⁷⁴ William Martin Leake, F.R.S. (14 January 1777 – 6 January 1860), whose work on the topography of ancient Greece is still valued.

⁷⁵ In 1838 Stephen Ralph Martin Leake (1782-1865) was chief clerk in the Treasury, where his father had served under Pitt. He is considered one of the founders of the Victorian civil service. He married Georgiana Stevens in 1818, and they had five children. (*A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great ...*, Volume 1 By Bernard Burke.)

⁷⁶ Agnes Strickland (1796-1874), a writer and historian who was in 1838 researching with her sister Elizabeth *The Lives of the Queens of England* (1840-48). Elizabeth (1794-1875) was named editor of the *Court Journal* by Colburn in 1830. Agnes Strickland was a contributor to *The Diadem: A Book for the Boudoir* for 1838, which Sheridan edited.

Amelia Gillespie Smyth to Samuel Carter Hall

Date: 22 February 1835

Place: Brighton

22 Regency Square⁷⁷
Brighton. 22 Feb^{ry}

Dear Sir,

I avail myself of a friend going to town tomorrow to express my sincere concern for the painful illness which has so grievously interfered with our having the pleasure of seeing you & Mrs Hall⁷⁸ at Brighton, & my earnest hope that ere this, the more violent symptoms, & your consequent anxieties are happily removed, which I shall feel much relieved by your communicating when you can find leisure to write a simple line.

That you should have been able to give even a thought to my interests under such circumstances proves how kindly you have adopted them. but my being deprived at the moment, of the more active good offices of Mrs Hall & yourself (whose power as well as inclination to afford them I well know) is only another instance of the fatality which

[page break]

has always disabled at the same critical period of the existence of every separate publication of mine, the influential friend on whom its welfare chiefly turned.⁷⁹ I almost feel ashamed of allowing any

⁷⁷ Regency Square was a fashionable new development (1818-1830) on the sea front on the Belle Vue Field, formerly a military drill area and a fairground. No. 22 is in the Northwest corner.

⁷⁸ Samuel Carter Hall married Anna Maria Fielding (1800-18) in 1824. A prolific author and editor of annual giftbooks, she was a native of County Wexford, Ireland (Samuel was from Cork).

⁷⁹ Hall was in 1835 editor of the *New Monthly Magazine* and thus in a position to give Smyth a boost. Smyth's *Selwyn in Search of a Daughter: and Other Tales* was published by Saunders & Otley Feb 9, 1835; it was well known from its appearance in *Blackwood's* in 1827. The subsequent notice in the *New Monthly* is brief but highly complimentary: "The author is known to be a lady—a lady of high station in Scotland—one who has employed her time and rare talents

degree of selfish feeling to mingle with my sympathy for Mrs Hall's illness is one, I am told by the most eminent physicians here, unusually prevalent at the present moment, especially among the young & robust.

In the hope of soon hearing favorable tidings of your convalescent I remain Dr Sir
Very faithfully & truly yrs
A. Gillespie Smyth

Perhaps at some moment of greater leisure of mind & body, you would rescue for me from either the printers or publishers – the debris of my 'odd volume' – containing the only collected[?] copy I possess of the German & other 'Translations'.⁸⁰ I do not wish to have it particularly here, unless you should happen

[page break]

to be forwarding a little parcel which (in expectation of long since seeing you) I had authorized Smith & Elder to send to 4 Picadilly, to your care.⁸¹

Mr. Smyth begs to unite in cordial wishes for Mrs. Hall's speedy recovery. Is there any chance of your yet visiting this before the 1st of April, when we go to town?

[stamped 7 Night 7 Fe•23 1835]

S. C. Hall Esq.
Wentworth Cottage
Fulham Fields⁸²

in benefiting her kind, and whose pen has long been busied in disseminating principles that produce happiness to rich and poor" (1835 Part the First, p. 379).

⁸⁰ Unidentified.

⁸¹ Smith & Elder were a small publishing firm founded by two Scotsmen in London in 1816; in 1827 they began publishing *Friendship's Offering*, one of the most popular of the annual giftbooks, and they subsequently published Louisa Sheridan's *Comic Offering*. They were perhaps more open than some to women authors. In the mid-Victorian period the firm was the publisher for Ruskin and Charlotte Brontë (ODNB "George Murray Smith").

⁸² Wentworth Cottage was off North End Road in Fulham--the area subject of the queries in the letter in this collection by Thomas Croftton Croker. Fulham had long been an artsy

neighborhood, and many of the minor literary figures of this era lived there or nearby: Hook, Jerdan, the Halls, Landon, etc. The Halls were like many literary folk itinerant, and it is not known how long they resided in Wentworth Cottage—but long enough to plant a tree from a clipping taken from Napoleon's grave at St. Helena (Walford 527).

Barry St. Leger to Charles Knight⁸³

Date: 17 August 1828

Place: Gloucester

Gloucester, August 17

My dear Knight,— I have received your letter of yesterday, and am well contented that my murder should stand by itself. A title is difficult: “The Late Trials for Murder” would be a misnomer—for, in fact, it treats only of one – and “Some Account of a late Trial for Murder” would lead every body to suppose it was Corder’s—with which, with me, would be a sufficient reason for not buying the *Maga : zine* – I am so thoroughly disgusted & sickened with the way the papers have harped upon it. Do you think it would seem affected to call it “Some Account of a Late Trial for Murder (not Corder’s)”? And then say, in a note to the title, three words to the effect of what I have said above?⁸⁴ However, if it be not printed before that time, (of course do not wait) I shall be in town on Tuesday night — to talk that & other things over with you. Business has been very slack, in point of quantity here at Gloucester, & I shall leave, in all probability, after Court tomorrow evening — Dine with a friend

⁸³ A transcription was published in *Charles Knight: A Sketch* by Alice A. Clowes, Knight’s granddaughter. London: Richard Bentley, 1892. 162-165. It misdates the year, lacks the postscript, and alters the punctuation. St. Leger and Knight had prior to 1828 collaborated on several publications, and probably met when Knight, building on *The Etonian*, launched *Knight’s Quarterly Magazine* in late 1824. They briefly co-published a weekly called *Brazen Head* in 1826 (*DNB*). According to the *DNCJ*, Knight and St. Leger purchased the *London Magazine* “by April 1828.”

⁸⁴ St. Leger’s “Some Account of a Late Trial for Murder, Not Corder’s” appeared in *London Magazine* 2 n.s. (Sept. 1828): 179-187. A footnote read, “We are under the necessity of using a somewhate quaint title, to prevent the possibility of any reader of our Magazine throwing it down in disgust, in the belief that *we* were about to add something more to the heap of the revolting trash, which the newspapers have raked together about the ruffian of “the Red Barn” at Polstead.” For a recent account of the sensational “Red Barn” murder, see Judith Flanders, *The Invention of Murder: How the Victorians Revelled in Death and Detection and Created Modern Crime* (New York: St. Martin’s, 2011), especially Chap. 2, “Trial by Newspaper.”

[page break]

at Cheltenham, and come up per Magnet⁸⁵ the next day. I am willing to have the excuse that it is necessary for me to make arrangements with you preparatory to my holidays about Maga,⁸⁶ to spare me the “long-sea” from Bristol. I shall probably remain in town till the end of the week – and then go to Ireland by Holyhead⁸⁷ – the only decent way of going assuredly. I shall bring you a Family Portrait – Some Diary – and a translation of an article on Béranger, which I have received from poor Degeorge, in the “Maison de Justice à St. Omer.”⁸⁸ Poor fellow! he says – “Je serai ici jusqu’à le 18 de ce mois: je craignais au commencement de mon arrivée pour ma pauvre tête—je suis presque sûr maintenant d’être acquitté!—Je serai à Londres dans un mois.” Faith, he seems to me to take it very coolly: for, though, of course, they would not now put a man to death for his offense, yet their modes of proceeding must be outrageously different from our’s, if an exemption from death involves a total pardon. However, I suppose he knows what he is about. – I am not wedded to my Session of Parliament, and will willingly yield

⁸⁵ Clowes reads “Magnet” (it could also be “dragnet”) but neither meaning is clear to me.

⁸⁶ This usage would normally indicate *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*, not its rival *London Magazine*—but in the context must refer to the *London*.

⁸⁷ Beginning in 1821 steam packets had begun sailing between Bristol and Cork. The older route from Holyhead in North Wales to Dublin was much shorter.

⁸⁸ The “Diary for the Month” appeared in each issue of the *London Magazine* in 1828. “Family Portraits” was an ongoing series, and St. Leger may refer to No. IV “The Page” (September, 203-217) or perhaps No. V, “Good Sir Walter,” which appeared in November (460-475). Joseph Frédéric Degeorge (1797-1854), a veteran of Waterloo and an anti-Monarchist law student who was involved with various conspiracies and insurrections. He was sentenced to death in absentia at the court in St. Omer on 24 March 1824 for his support for a Spanish revolt, and fled to London, where he wrote for the *Globe* and gave French lessons. He returned to France in July 1828 and was acquitted at St. Omer on 18 August 1828. See <http://www.archivespasdelais.fr/Anniversaires/12-septembre-1797-naissance-du-journaliste-Frederic-Degeorge>. “Characters of Contemporary Foreign Authors and Statesmen. No. VIII.—De Béranger” appeared in *London Magazine* (September, 1828: 173-178).

[page break]

it to you. I have not the materials thoroughly up--: perhaps, however, I may give you a paragraph or two which you may work in. My sister says there is no knowing our writings apart. Indeed, I think there is a strong tone of unity running throughout the Editorial portion of the Magazine, at the least. I like exceedingly your list of subjects – but I wish you would not be so hare-&-the-tortoise as to their execution – Ehem! By the way, how the devil can you know any thing about “Education in Ireland.”?⁸⁹ – Is it the

Society’s materials
that you have
got hold of, or

what?⁹⁰ – I congratulate you upon your accession to your family, & am very glad to hear Mrs Knight is doing so well. I shall be delighted to be permitted to be god-father to the nouveau-venu if you have not made other arrangements. I have one qualification for the office, viz. a large choice of names, Francis, Barry, and Boyle. – Good bye – look in at Paper Buildings⁹¹ on Wednesday morning.

Always yours,
Barry St. Leger

address side

Charles Knight, Esq
13 Pall Mall East
London

⁸⁹ Knight published “Education of the People” in *London Magazine* 3.1 (April 1828): 1-13. He doesn’t appear to have published an essay titled “Education in Ireland.”

⁹⁰ *The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* (founded in 1826). Knight’s “Education of the People” is in part about the Society, and he had supervised the Society’s publications since July, 1827.

⁹¹ The “Paper Buildings” in the Temple were constructed in 1609, in the timber, lath, and plaster technique known as “paperwork.” They feature in, among other books, *A Tale of Two Cities*. A fire in 1838 severely damaged the structures.

Dear K,-- *[address in fold]*
this I have
article. *[illegible]*.
as well to
you to keep
I will like
it when
B.S.

Since I wrote
translated De G.s
*[nu]*mber, therefore, it
to send it, to help
Parker⁹² quiet.
to see a proof of
I come

⁹² Perhaps the publisher J. W. Parker, West Strand.

Charles Molloy Westmacott to J.T.J. Hewlett

Date: May/June 1834⁹³

Place: London

Kings Farm Lodge⁹⁴
Richmond

My dear Hewlett

I have delayed answering yr
very kind invitation in the hope of being sufficiently
recovered to accept it – for the last month I have been
under the hands of Brodie⁹⁵ for a very serious injury
inflicted by the fall of my horse above twelve months
since. I am now thank God Considerably better but
I fear not-well enough to encounter a journey
to Oxford added to which my little wife is also
on the Doctors list.⁹⁶ I need not-say how much I could
wish to witness the splendid Triumph of the
Good Cause for such I consider it, quite Independent
of the Duke. Many thanks for the offer I shall
not forget it. The Frazer shall be sent you
with a proof of my Picture of Walter Scott by
to morrow's Coach.⁹⁷ Make my best respects to

⁹³ Hewlett had apparently invited Westmacott to come to Oxford to see the Duke of Wellington installed as Chancellor (9 June 1834). Westmacott's reference to sending "The Frazer" refers to the May issue of *Fraser's Magazine*, in which Westmacott was featured in the "Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters."

⁹⁴ The current Kings Farm Avenue is just between Richmond Park and Kew Gardens. The Lodge is shown on an Ordinance Survey Map in 1891 but is now presumably demolished.

⁹⁵ Probably Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, 1st Baronet. Brodie was a noted physician with an extensive private practice; he was made Baronet in 1834 at the recommendation of William IV's confidant, Sir Herbert Taylor (Brodie 166), who had collaborated with Westmacott in covering up the Garth scandal in 1829.

⁹⁶ Little is known about Westmacott's family; his "little wife" was Mary Anne Dunham, and Westmacott's enemies (e.g., the actor William Macready) assumed that they were not legally married. At the time of the Melbourne-Norton trial, *Figaro in London* violently attacked Westmacott's morals: "still by his moral character we have a right to estimate the claim that the Age has to speak of morals, and perhaps Mary Anne Durham can give evidence of the sweep's morality" ("Morals of the Great," 28 May 1836: 35-36; Westmacott was nicknamed "the sweep"). *Figaro* later apologized for this statement. The 1841 census lists his household members as "Charles William Westmacott, Age 12; Anne Westmacott, Age 35; Sarah Burling, Age 20, Servant."

[page break]

Mrs Hewlett & add that if she & you will honor
the Cottage with a visit we shall be most
happy to afford her our best welcome. If
a certain friend of mine should be “in the
vein” I think he will take pity on an Invalid
& send him some account of the Ceremonial
done in his own happy style.⁹⁸

Accept my best wishes
& believe me
Yours very Truly
C. M. Westmacott

To the Revd J. J. Hewlett

⁹⁷ The “Proof of my Picture of Walter Scott” is unidentified. Westmacott was a notable art collector, and this may refer to a picture in his possession that had been engraved or lithographed.

⁹⁸ Maginn may have been the friend, as he was in attendance. Wellington, who was required to deliver his address in Latin, praised Maginn’s dog Latin parody of it (Stanhope 229).

Charles Molloy Westmacott to J.T.J. Hewlett

Date: December 31, 1838

Place: London

Argus office

No 2 Catherine st Strand⁹⁹

Dec^b. 31. 1838

My dear Sir

After a very long Tour through Germany and Switzerland I have returned to recommence my labours—I had intended to have retired altogether but certain noble friends have induced me to take the field again under Circumstances which are very flattering to me and with every promise of success.¹⁰⁰ I hardly need say that “The Argus” will be conservative of the same shade as “The Age” & double the size at the same price. This will afford an opportunity for more general information News Literary Contributions & Reviews. As I intend that the first number should be a specimen of a great original I am anxious to secure the assistance of my old friends & for this purpose I address myself to you hoping that you will find the time before the 28th of January next to pen me an article in your usually clear[?] style on the Pusey Controversy¹⁰¹ or any other subject that may be more congenial. My intention is to print one hundred thousand copies of the first number & distribute them Simultaneously throughout Europe, as a prospectus, in such case variety is everything & I am in hopes that “The Argus” will start a full grown giant at its birth. I shall be well pleased

⁹⁹ Westmacott owned property in Catherine Street, where he published the *Age*. It was one of several colorful side streets off the Strand that were home to newspapers and journalists, as well as taverns and brothels, in the first half of the nineteenth century. The *Age* continued to publish in 1839 from #1, so the proximity of the rival papers would have made for some interesting encounters.

¹⁰⁰ Westmacott was vain about his connections with members of the nobility, and even the Royal family. Figures such as the Duke of (King of Hanover after the death of William IV) supported Tory causes and the Tory press. It's possible that the *Argus* is the “project afoot” that William Maginn mentions in an undated note to Westmacott in this collection. Maginn wrote the leaders for the *Argus* in its first year.

¹⁰¹ Edward Bouverie Pusey (1800-1882), Regius Professor of Hebrew at Christ Church, Oxford, and one of leaders of the “Oxford Movement” in the Church of England, which was also known as “Puseyism.” Pusey began publishing his *Library of the Fathers* in 1838, which was seen as advocating a return to the teachings of the pre-Reformation Church, and thus a dangerous movement towards Roman Catholicism by its critics.

if you will permit me in all future Contributions to consider them as a matter of business – You have a large family to provide for¹⁰² & I have no right to draw from the resources of your mind without tendering the “quid pro quo” in return. Our friend Walesby¹⁰³ will

[other side of page]

I have no doubt – yield his assistance & there are others of mighty note who have already promised – remember we are the Farmers friend & the Landed interest the Church & the Crown must have our best support – Still we must be liberally Conservative yielding only to necessity but firm in ~~support~~ defence of existing Institutions I shall boldly place my name at the head of the Journal & as much as possible avoid the personalities of “The Age” although I do not by that intend to repudiate all joke or fun.¹⁰⁴ With best respects to Mrs Hewlitt & family & wishing you a happy new year.

I am
Yours very Truly
C. M. Westmacott

To the
Rev^d J. T. Hewlitt
√ • √ • √ •

[upside down at bottom right of page in different hand] Westmacott

¹⁰² At his death in 1847, Hewlett left 9 orphaned children, who except for the support of his Masonic Lodge would have been taken to the Union workhouse. See the “The Hewlett Fund.”

¹⁰³ Francis Pearson Walesby, Esq. (d. 1858) was a barrister and scholar who occasionally wrote on public affairs; from 1829-1834 he was Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford and Professor of Anglo-Saxon.

¹⁰⁴ Westmacott and the *Age* were, at least in the minds of the Whigs and radicals, synonymous with “personalities,” and both were subject to personal abuse, such as this attack in *Figaro in London*: “How many characters have been ruthlessly ruined in the columns of the *Age*, with no more motive in the act than the base one of trying to give money to a man whose position never gave him any other chance of getting it, and for which calumnies there never was any more foundation than the stony heart and pestilential breath of the fellow who conceived them, and gave them utterance” (2 Feb 1836: 23).

